This spring junior Kevin Gassaway will bring his Lenten principles to the Caribbean island of Haiti. He begins the mission trip on March 31 to Port-au-Prince, Haiti and will return on April 6.

The mission trip is run by the youth group at Forest Hill Church, located off of Park Road. While Forest Hill is nondenominational, Gassaway has been attending the youth group sessions every weekend for three years. He is the only person from Charlotte Catholic traveling with Forest Hill Church for this mission trip.

The youth group has about twenty of its members, including Kevin, participating on the Mission trip as well as five adult leaders who have made the trip to Haiti before.

Kevin has always desired to participate on a mission trip of this magnitude, and his youth group finally gave him the chance to do so.

“I’ve always wanted to do this kind of trip on my own. It was brought up at one of my youth group meeting and I immediately lunged at the opportunity to accomplish something that I’ve wanted to do for such a long time,” said Kevin.

The group traveling will be working with Mission of Hope Haiti, at Port-au-Prince, an organization that has been helping Haiti’s less fortunate since 1989. The team will help with light construction in the morning and hold devotions in the afternoon for all the children in the town.

Kevin has been preparing for this journey since the beginning of January, when he first signed up to participate on the excursion.

“We’ve had tons of meetings already in order to get ready for it. We had to take a couple classes just on international mission trips, but since then we’ve just been learning how to act and speak over there because of the cultural barrier,” said Kevin.

Kevin also said that he expects this cultural difference to be the hardest thing to overcome for him and the group as a whole especially during the devotions.

Kevin has also established some goals for himself as he delivers God’s work and message to this impoverished nation.

“While I’m there, if I can just do something to make a difference for one other person than the whole mission trip will be a success for me,” said Kevin. All in all Kevin believes that it will be an experience that will do more for him than he expects.